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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES AND THE BALTIC STATES

SUMMARY

The present document contains a recommendation for continuation of funding from the administrative and programme support budget for administrative and programme support activities in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the continuation of the funding level of $2 million for 1995 for administrative and programme support activities for Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. In addition to these resources, and as previously authorized by the relevant Executive Board decisions, the existing international Professional and General Service posts which are associated with the programme will continue to be funded through 1995.

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1. In its decisions 1990/5 (E/ICEF/1990/13), 1991/20 (E/ICEF/1991/15), 1992/19 (E/ICEF/1992/14) and 1993/9 (E/ICEF/1993/14), the Executive Board authorized UNICEF to undertake a programme of assistance on behalf of children in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. Within the framework of its mandate, UNICEF has provided support for advocacy, policy development, information, emergencies and the establishment of national programmes for countries meeting UNICEF criteria for assistance.

2. In decisions 1992/19 and 1992/42 (E/ICEF/1992/14), the Executive Board approved a funding level of $2 million per year from the administrative and programme support budget for the period 1992-1994. These funds were used for advocacy, analytical studies, technical workshops and the development of child-focused policies in the region, including in countries undergoing a difficult transition process but which did not meet normal criteria for regular UNICEF programmes of cooperation. Executive Board decisions 1992/19 and 1992/42 also approved additional staff costs.

3. The new budget proposal for the 1996-1997 administrative and programme support budget to be submitted to the Executive Board in 1995 will include the requirements for the existing section at headquarters dealing with Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States, as well as proposed regional support (E/ICEF/1994/13 (Part II), decision 1994/R.2/9). In the meantime, as planned, funds for programme support authorized by Executive Board decisions 1992/19 and 1992/42 will by exhausted by the end of 1994. There is therefore a need to provide funding for the continuation of these ongoing activities in 1995. The present proposal has been submitted to provide for this transitional funding as part of the revised 1994-1995 administrative and programme support budget. The funding for 1995 and the cost of the posts would be contained in the already approved 1994-1995 budget.